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Linda McCulloch
Superintendent

THINK FOOD

School Nutrition Programs

July 2008



WELCOME BACK!

COMMODITY UPDATE

You should have received a list of the commodities that were ordered for your school in the mailing sent by the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) on August 5. If you have questions on your order please contact Food Distribution at (406) 444-4415.

Because of the recent passage of the Farm Bill the OPI School Nutrition Programs (SNP) received an additional \$242,372 to use for the purchase of "bonus" canned and frozen fruits and vegetables. The funds were used to purchase A417 Strawberry Cups, A252 Tomato Paste, A416 Peach Cups, A085 Refried Beans and A243 Spaghetti Sauce for the 2008-09 school year. Truckloads of A416 Peach Cups, A091 Veggie Beans, A375 Strawberries Frz., A061 Green Beans

and A220 Sweet Potatoes were purchased for the 2009-10 school year. If you have already ordered any of these items you will receive your schools "fair share" of the bonus truckloads.

The USDA cancelled the A363 Cherries Red 10 deliveries. All school orders have been deleted.

New items that have been ordered are A431 Pear Halves (bonus), A409 Peaches Diced, A173 Potato Wedges Fat Free and B836 Whole Grn Spaghetti. The whole grain spaghetti is the only spaghetti that was purchased and all orders will be filled using the new product.

One truckload each of the potato

"It is the mission of the Office of Public Instruction to improve teaching and learning through communication, collaboration, advocacy, and accountability to those we serve."

wedges, potato rounds and the oven fries were ordered. This was not enough to fill everyone's requests. Orders were filled on a fair share basis. As a replacement the fat free potato wedges were ordered in the hopes that everyone would give them a try.

The production of the online commodity program has temporarily been put on hold. For now, Food Distribution will continue to use the program we have used in the past. Use the Commodity Request form on the OPI Food Distribution Web site to order additional commodities.

NEW SPECIALIST

As many of you know, we said goodbye to Kim Pullman this summer. We appreciate all that Kim did for School Nutrition Programs and wish her well in her future endeavors.

Teresa Motlas, from South Dakota, is the newest OPI School Nutrition Programs Specialist. Teresa is a registered dietitian with a bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska and a master's degree from South Dakota State University. She has experience working with the school lunch and breakfast programs and is currently the food stamp nutrition education coordinator for the Cooperative Extension Service in

South Dakota. Teresa will join the OPI School Nutrition Programs staff in late September. We are looking forward to having Teresa be a part of our team.

BEST WHEN FRESH REMINDER

It is best to serve foods at their freshest, including commodities. If you stored food through the summer be sure to use it during the first few months of school.

LOW SODIUM CANNED VEGETABLES

In their efforts to offer nutritious foods to school children the USDA is ensuring that its commodities closely follow the recommendations provided in the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

Over a two-year period, starting in SY 2009, the sodium level will be reduced in all canned vegetable commodities.

SY 2009 - sodium levels will be reduced to 140 mg per serving in canned tomato products (tomato paste, tomato sauce, and salsa) and canned dried bean products.

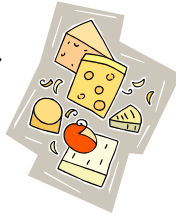


SY 2010 - the sodium level for all other canned vegetables (carrots, corn, green beans, peas, etc.) will be reduced.

For more commodity food information visit the following Web site:
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/commodityfoodfacts.htm>.

REBATE PROGRAM\$

This year along with the Schwan's rebate program the OPI School Nutrition Programs is adding the EZ Cheez program sponsored by Gilardi/ConAgra Foods and MCI Los Cabos.



A signed participation agreement for each program needs to be on file to receive the rebate checks. The agreement forms can be found on the Food Distribution Web site at:
<http://www.opi.mt.gov/schoolfood/foodDistNEW.html> under forms. Forms will remain on file for those schools that participated in the program last year.

If you have questions contact either Kennie (406) 444-4412 or Judy (406) 444-4415.

AVAILABLE COMMODITIES

Following is a list of the commodities that are still available. Due to the additional bonus commodities, most schools still have entitlement dollars available. Fax your commodity requests to (406) 444-2955.

Apple Slices	253
Applesauce	165
Beans, Green	20
Beans, Kidney R	389
Beans, Pinto	240
Beans, Refried	273
Beans, Veg	61
Blueberries, Frz	486
Cheese, Ched RD Fat Shrd	74
Cheese, Ched Shrd Y	153
Cheese, Slc	502
Cherries, Dried	548
Chix Breaded 7PC	259
Chix Fajita	413
Corn, Cnd	234
Corn, Frz	405
Eggs, Frz	83
Flour A/P	399
Flour B	521
Ham	260
Macaroni	338
Mixed Fruit	545
Mozz Lite Shrd	97
Mozz LMPS	205
Oil, Veg	277
Peach Cups	746
Peanut Butter	884
Pears	228
Pork Roast	378
Rice, Brown	351
Salsa	750
Shortening	357
Spaghetti	735
Spaghetti Sauce	828
Strawberries, Slc	633
Strawberry Cups	529
Tomato Sauce	6

Tomatoes, Diced	369
Turkey Brst. Deli	42
Turkey Hams	460
Turkey Roasts	291

NEW ITEMS

Pear Halves	912
Peaches, Diced	456
Potato Wedges FF	1320

MORE \$\$ FOR DoD FRESH PROGRAM



Due to the recent passage of the farm bill the OPI Food Distribution Program has received approval from the USDA to transfer \$100,000 from the commodity entitlement to the DoD Fresh Fruit & Vegetable program entitlement for a total of \$235,795. Along with this increase, the OPI School Nutrition Programs DoD Fresh Fruit & Vegetable program also received an additional \$45,000 to be spent prior to September 30, 2008.



The \$235,795 will be allocated to all schools that have signed up for the 2008-09 School Year.

-IMPORTANT-

Schools participating in the DoD Fresh program should begin placing orders immediately to insure that the \$45,000 will be used by the closing date of September 30, 2008.

If you have questions contact Kennie Johnson at (406) 444-4412.

SHIPMENT 2

The first frozen shipment will begin shipping on September 15. So far, the shipment is on the light side. Items that are still available are:

Cheese, Ched RD Fat Shred Y 6/5
 Cheese, Cheddar Shred Y 6/5
 Ham, Frz Wateradd 40
 Mozz LMPS SD 30
 Strawberries Slc
 Turkey Hams

If you can take additional cases on this shipment please fax your commodity request to (406) 444-2955 by **August 29, 2008**.

AND THE WINNER IS ...

Food Services of America won the fall bid. The first of four deliveries will begin in mid August.



For more information contact Kennie Johnson at (406) 444-4412 or visit <http://www.opi.mt.gov/schoolffod/cooperativeNEW.html>

